

Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method in a computer system for tracking orders for multiple units of items, each order having one or more items, each item having an associated quantity of units of that item, the method comprising:

providing an existing order database with an order record for each of a plurality of orders that have been booked, the existing order database being updated to reflect current orders for multiple units of items;

creating a unit order database using information from the existing order database to include a record for each unit of each item of each order of the existing order database, the unit order database being distinct from the existing order database, each record in the unit order database having a reference to the record of a corresponding order in the existing order database, wherein creating the unit order database comprises:

adding a plurality of records to the unit order database, each record representing a unit of an item of a new order of the existing order database, wherein each record includes an order number and an order item identifier of the corresponding order in the existing order database, and

when the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed,

adding records representing increased units of the item to the unit order database, wherein each record includes the order number and the order item identifier of the corresponding order in the existing order database, and

setting records of the unit order database representing decreased units of the item to canceled; and

when order status of a unit of an item of an order changes, setting a status in the record of the unit order database for the unit of the item of the order to reflect the changed order status

so that the order status of a unit of an item of an order can be tracked separately from the order.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 including identifying that an order in the existing order database is new when the unit order database contains no records corresponding to that order.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 including identifying that the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed by comparing the quantity of units of the item indicated in the existing order database to a quantity of units of the item indicated by the records of that order in the unit order database.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the creating of the unit order database includes adding a plurality of records to the unit order database, each record representing a unit of an item of an uncanceled order of the existing order database.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the creating of the unit order database occurs on a periodic basis.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the period is daily.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the order status is shipping status and the status in the record is set to indicate a ship date of the unit.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the order status is open or closed and the status in the record is set to indicate closed when the unit of the item has been shipped and cost information has been provided.

11. (Previously presented) A computer system for tracking orders for multiple units of items, each order having one or more items, each item having an associated quantity of units of that item, comprising:

means for creating a unit order database using information from an existing order database to include a record for each unit of each item of each order of the existing order database, each record in the unit order database having a reference to a corresponding order in the existing order database, the existing order database having orders that have been booked, the existing order database being updated to reflect current orders, the existing order database being distinct from the unit order database, wherein the means for creating the unit order database comprises:

means for adding a plurality of records to the unit order database, each record representing a unit of an item of a new order of the existing order database, and

when the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed, means for adding records representing increased units of the item to the unit order database and means for setting records of the unit order database representing decreased units of the item to canceled; and

means for setting a status in a record of the unit order database for a unit of the item of the order to reflect a changed order status when the order status of the unit of the item of the order changes

so that the order status of a unit of an item of an order can be tracked separately from the order.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 11 including means for identifying that an order in the existing order database is new when the unit order database contains no records corresponding to that order.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 11 including means for identifying that the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed by comparing the quantity of units of the item indicated in the existing order database to a quantity of units of the item indicated by the records of that order in the unit order database.

16. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 11 wherein the means for creating of the unit order database includes means for adding a plurality of records to the unit order database, each record representing a unit of an item of an uncanceled order of the existing order database.

17. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 11 wherein the creating of the unit order database occurs on a periodic basis.

18. (Original) The computer system of claim 17 wherein the period is daily.

19. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 11 wherein the order status is shipping status and the status in the record is set to indicate a ship date of the unit.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 11 wherein the order status is open or closed and the status in the record is set to indicate closed when the unit of the item has been shipped and cost information has been provided.

22. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to track orders for multiple units of items, each order having one or more items, each item having an associated quantity of units of that item, the orders being stored in an existing order database that is updated to reflect current orders, by a method comprising:

creating a unit order database using information from the existing order database to include a record for each unit of each item of each order of the existing order

database, each record in the unit order database having a reference to a corresponding order in the existing order database, the unit order database being distinct from the existing order database, wherein creating the unit order database comprises:

adding a plurality of records to the unit order database, each record representing a unit of an item of a new order of the existing order database, and
when the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed, adding records representing increased units of the item to the unit order database and setting records of the unit order database representing decreased units of the item to canceled; and

when order status of a unit of an item of an order changes, setting a status in the record of the unit order database for the unit of the item of the order to reflect the changed order status

so that the order status of a unit of an item of an order can be tracked separately from the order.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 including identifying that an order in the existing order database is new when the unit order database contains no records corresponding to that order.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 including identifying that the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed by comparing the quantity of units of the item indicated in the existing order database to a quantity of units of the item indicated by the records of that order in the unit order database.

27. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the creating of the unit order database includes adding a plurality of records to the unit order

database, each record representing a unit of an item of an uncanceled order of the existing order database.

28. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the creating of the unit order database occurs on a periodic basis.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the period is daily.

30. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the order status is shipping status and the status in the record is set to indicate a ship date of the unit.

31. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the order status is open or closed and the status in the record is set to indicate closed when the unit of the item has been shipped and cost information has been provided.

32. (Previously presented) A method in a computer system for tracking orders for multiple units of items at an individual unit level when an existing order entry system supports tracking only at the order or item level, the method comprising:

periodically identifying changes to orders of an existing order database of the existing order entry system; and

creating a unit order database using information from the existing order database to reflect the identified changes to the orders of the existing order database, each record in the unit order database having a reference to a corresponding order in the existing order database, the unit order database being distinct from the existing order database, the unit order database having a record for each unit of each item of each order so that the order status of each unit of each item of an order can be tracked separately from the order, wherein creating the unit order database comprises:

adding a plurality of records to the unit order database, each record representing a unit of an item of a new order of the existing order database, and

when the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed, adding records representing increased units of the item to the unit order database and setting records of the unit order database representing decreased units of the item to canceled.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 including identifying that an order in the existing order database is new when the unit order database contains no records corresponding to that order.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) A method in a computer system for augmenting a conventional order processing system capable of tracking orders for units of items at the order level to allow the order processing system to track orders at the unit level, the method comprising:

providing a conventional order processing system having an existing order database for tracking orders for units of items, each order having one or more items, each item having an associated quantity of units of that item;

updating the existing order database with a plurality of orders that have been booked, the existing order database being updated to reflect current orders;

augmenting the conventional order processing system with a unit order database separate from the order database, the unit order database created using information from the existing order database, wherein creating the unit order database comprises:

adding a plurality of records to the unit order database, each record representing a unit of an item of a new order of the existing order database, and

when the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed,

adding records representing increased units of the item to the unit order database, and

setting records of the unit order database representing decreased units of the item to canceled;

updating the unit order database to include a record for each unit of each item of each order of the existing order database;

determining a change in order status of a unit of an item of an order; and

responsive to determining the change in order status of the unit of the item of the order, setting a status indicator in the record of the unit order database for the unit of the item of the order to reflect the changed order status

so that the order status of each unit of each item of an order can be tracked separately from the order.